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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 10/601,772 | 06/24/2003 | Minoru Kusakabe | 00862.023108. | 9496 |
| 5514 | 7590 | 10/06/2005 | | |
| FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112 | | | EXAMINER TRAN, PHUOC | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2621 | |

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <p align="center">Office Action Summary</p> | <p>Application No.</p> <p align="center">10/601,772</p> | <p>Applicant(s)</p> <p align="center">KUSAKABE ET AL.</p> | |
| | <p>Examiner</p> <p align="center">Phuoc Tran</p> | <p>Art Unit</p> <p align="center">2621</p> | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</p> <p>2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</p> <p>3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)</p> <p> Paper No(s)/Mail Date: <u>02/13/03</u></p> | <p>4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)</p> <p> Paper No(s)/Mail Date: ____</p> <p>5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</p> <p>6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hatamaka [U. S. Patent No. 4,689,666].

As to claim 1, Hatamaka discloses an image processing apparatus comprising: judgment means for judging a color of an image for each region having a predetermined size in an image superposed with noise (Fig. 1, item 15; col. 3, lines 32-59); determination means for determining a parameter for a noise removal process in correspondence with the color determined by said judgment means (Fig. 2, items 16, 22, 23; col. 4, lines 5-66); and control means for controlling execution of the noise removal process in accordance with the parameter determined by said determination means (Fig. 2, item 16, col. 4, lines 5-66).

As to claim 3, Hatamaka discloses that determination means determines information indicating a size of a region which is to undergo the noise removal process, and also determines parameters used in a filtering process (col. 4, lines 19-52).

As to claim 4, Hatamaka discloses that determination means determines information indicating a size of a region which is to undergo the noise removal process, and also determines parameters used in a noise distribution method (col. 4, lines 53-66).

As to claim 5, Hatamaka discloses that control means controls execution of a process as one or a combination of a noise reduction process using a low-pass filter, a noise reduction

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process using a noise distribution method, and a noise reduction process using a median filter (col. 4, line 5, col. 5, line 10).

Claim 6 is simply directed to a method corresponding to the apparatus of claim 1.

Therefore, it is rejected for the same reasons applied to claim 1.

As to claims 7-10, Hatamaka discloses that the apparatus and method of the claimed invention are implemented by means of a computer system (col. 5, lines 47-50).

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4. Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 7-8 are directed to a program which is considered as functional descriptive material NOT claimed as residing on a computer readable medium. Such functional descriptive material NOT claimed as residing on a computer readable medium is non-statutory subject matter. MPEP 2106.IV.B.1(a).

5. Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

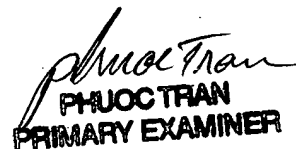
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Gindele et al disclose a noise reduction method utilizing color information.

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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuoc Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7399. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-FRI.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Mancuso can be reached on (571) 272-7695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


PHUOC TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER